



Town Shellfish Crier
July 20, 2020

1. Area by Breakwater on Indian Neck CLOSED to Shellfishing for State Quahog Relay [MAP]

Starting tomorrow, Tuesday, July 21, the department will place more than 150 bushels of mixed quahogs (littlenecks, cherrystones, chowders etc.) on the breakwater side of the Indian Neck recreational-only area. We will get the quahogs from the Taunton River through a state-run program that allows towns to move contaminated quahogs to our waters for natural purification. Quahogs are filter feeders, and they will clean the surrounding waters while they are purging themselves. The state makes us close the area to allow the quahogs to spawn during the summer, increasing the potential for baby quahogs to settle and grow there for the future. The quahogs are stringently tested before they can be harvested and eaten by the public. Stay tuned this fall and next spring to learn when it will open.

There is a candy-striped pole on the left of the beach entrance from the Indian Neck parking lot. The closed area extends from the candy-striped pole out to the green channel marker and all the way over to the breakwater. The entire area around the breakwater is closed. There are buoys marking the area and signage placed at the entrances.

As a point of clarification: Our waters are not contaminated; the clams are lightly-contaminated and able to purge themselves completely. This does not affect the surrounding water; in fact, clams purify the water as they feed. This is part of a tightly monitored state program. Quahog samples will be sent to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries for testing before we open the area to shellfishing. This program helps us create well-stocked clam beds and sustainable clam populations into the future.

2. Don't Forget To "Ring" Your Oysters

Oysters must measure at least three inches long in order to be harvested. This allows them to spawn and create your future half shell plates! We have placed 3" PVC rings at each entrance to Indian Neck. Help yourself to one and when measuring, make sure that the oyster gets completely stopped by the ring. Thank you for helping us ensure a sustainable shellfishery for years to come.

3. Shellfish Limits

The shellfishing week starts on Sundays. You are allowed to take one 10-quart wire basket full of shellfish each week. The shellfish need to be level with the top of the basket; **no crowns**. If you use a container that is not a 10-quart wire basket, Shellfish Department staff can advise you on how much you can fill it up. The constable's judgment will dictate limits on these other receptacles. To read more about shellfishing rules and regulations, click [here](#) and read Sections 4 and 5.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 508-349-0325 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve your shellfishing experience – or to learn more.
Thank you!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla and Drew Ryan
Deputy Shellfish Constables